Precision V-I Converter

The AD620 along with another op amp and two resistors make a precision current source (Figure 35). The op amp buffers the reference terminal to maintain good CMR. The output voltage V_X of the AD620 appears across R1 which converts it to a current. This current less only the input bias current of the op amp then flows out to the load.

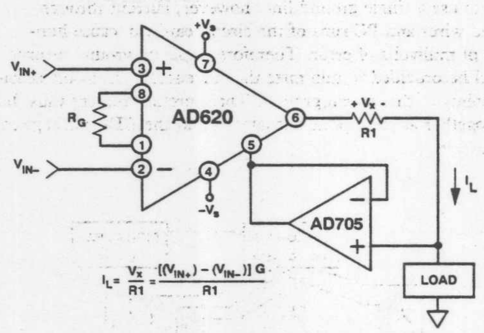

Figure 35. Precision Voltage-to-Current Converter (Operates on 1.8 mA, ±3 V)

GAIN SELECTION

The AD620's gain is resistor programmed by R_G, or more precisely, by whatever impedance appears between Pins 1 and 8. The AD620 is designed to offer accurate gains using 0.1%–1% resistors. Table II shows required values of R_G for various gains. Note that for G = 1, the R_G pins are unconnected ($R_G = \infty$). For any arbitrary gain R_G can be calculated by using the formula

$$R_G = \frac{49.4\ k\Omega}{G - 1}$$

To minimize gain error avoid high parasitic resistance in series with R_G, and to minimize gain drift R_G should have a low TC—less than 10 ppm/°C for the best performance.

Table II. Required Values of Gain Resistors

1% Std Table Value of R_G, Ω	Calculated Gain	0.1% Std Table Value of R_G, Ω	Calculated Gain
49.9 k	1.990	49.3 k	2.002
12.4 k	4.984	12.4 k	4.984
5.49 k	9.998	5.49 k	9.998
2.61 k	19.93	2.61 k	19.93
1.00 k	50.40	1.01 k	49.91
499	100.0	499	100.0
249	199.4	249	199.4
100	495.0	98.8	501.0
49.9	991.0	49.3	1,003

INPUT AND OUTPUT OFFSET VOLTAGE

The low errors of the AD620 are attributed to two sources, input and output errors. The output error is divided by G when referred to the input. In practice, the input errors dominate at high gains and the output errors dominate at low gains. The total V_{OS} for a given gain is calculated as:

Total Error RTI = input error + (output error/G)

Total Error RTO = (input error × G) + output error

REFERENCE TERMINAL

The reference terminal potential defines the zero output voltage, and is especially useful when the load does not share a precise ground with the rest of the system. It provides a direct means of injecting a precise offset to the output, with an allowable range of 2 V within the supply voltages. Parasitic resistance should be kept to a minimum for optimum CMR.

INPUT PROTECTION

The AD620 features 400 Ω of series thin film resistance at its inputs, and will safely withstand input overloads of up to ±15 V or ±60 mA for several hours. This is true for all gains, and power on and off, which is particularly important since the signal source and amplifier may be powered separately. For longer time periods, the current should not exceed 6 mA ($I_{IN} \le V_{IN}/400\ \Omega$). For input overloads beyond the supplies, clamping the inputs to the supplies (using a low leakage diode such as an FD333) will reduce the required resistance, yielding lower noise.

RF INTERFERENCE

All instrumentation amplifiers can rectify out of band signals, and when amplifying small signals, these rectified voltages act as small dc offset errors. The AD620 allows direct access to the input transistor bases and emitters enabling the user to apply some first order filtering to unwanted RF signals (Figure 36), where RC ≈ 1/(2 πf) and where f is the bandwidth of the AD620. Matching the extraneous capacitance at Pins 1 and 8, and Pins 2 and 3 helps to maintain high CMR.

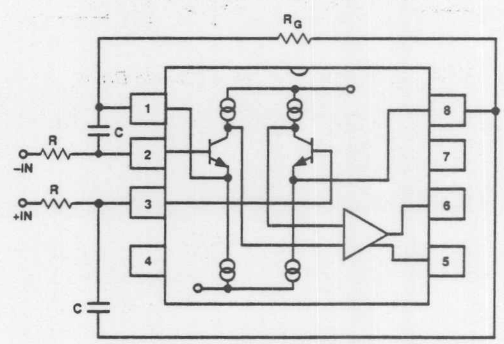

Figure 36. Circuit to Attenuate RF Interference

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